



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

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#### FIRST FEDERAL-STATE LAND AND WILDLIFE AREA SET UP IN CALIFORNIA

Inaugurating a new type of public land management program, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today announced in San Francisco the formal designation of a 92-square mile Federal-State cooperative land and wildlife management area in south-central California.

The area is located northeast of the Cuyama River in San Luis Obispo County, west of Maricopa, about half way between Los Angeles and San Francisco. It has been designated the Caliente National Cooperative Land and Wildlife Management Area.

Secretary Udall said this is the first formal Federal-State land and wildlife area in the United States. It will consist of 58,868 acres of public lands administered by the Department's Bureau of Land Management in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of California. Through a cooperative program, the Department and the State will develop the wildlife, recreational and other natural resources, Secretary Udall said.

Today's action follows a March 9 conference held in Washington at the suggestion of California Governor Edmund G. Brown. Interested Californians, State officials and members of the California Congressional delegation met in Washington with Interior Under Secretary James K. Carr to outline the program possibilities.

In setting up the management area, Secretary Udall explained, the Department has withdrawn the lands from applications under the nonmineral public land laws and from dispositions under the homestead, desert land and scrip selection laws. The lands will be open to mining, mineral leasing, grazing, and other compatible uses administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Secretary Udall said the California State Department of Fish and Game has been interested in the area for several years. The Department's Fish and Wildlife Service filed application for withdrawal of the area in 1956. In October 1957, a public hearing was held on the proposal in Taft, California.

The area contains some fine quail and chukar partridge hunting, Secretary Udall said. Much of it is arid and almost inaccessible. Good access into the area is still a problem, but the Department and the State will lay plans for needed access roads.

The Secretary noted that 25 similar proposed withdrawals are now pending in the Department covering approximately 850,000 acres in California.

A complete description of the affected lands and the terms of the withdrawal will be published in the Federal Register. A map of the area is attached.

# CALIENTE NATIONAL COOPERATIVE LAND AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA CALIFORNIA APRIL 1961

